

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS TAIPEI 002650

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EAP/RSP/TC, EAP/PA, EAP/PD - ROBERT
PALLADINO
DEPARTMENT PASS AIT/WASHINGTON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: Cross-Strait Affairs

1. Summary: Taiwan dailies focused June 16 on the dispute between Taiwan and Japan regarding their overlapping exclusive economic zones, and China's plan that would allow Taiwan people to work in China. The conservative, pro-unification "United Daily News" carried a headline banner on its front page that read: "CCP Greatly Loosens Its Restrictions To Allow The Taiwan People To Work In China."

2. Taiwan dailies editorialized and commented June 16 on local issues (e.g. a new retirement plan for laborers, the government's plan regarding a minimum tax scheme) and the Taiwan-Japan relationship (e.g. protest held by Taiwan aboriginal Legislator May Chin in front of Japan's Yasukuni Shrine). The pro-independence "Liberty Times," however, commented on an incident where a local Taiwan college removed the national flag and a portrait of Dr. Sun Yat-sen in order to show goodwill to Chinese guests. The "Liberty Times" editorialized that the incident shows that a minority of Taiwan people lack a Taiwan-centered identity. End summary.

A) "The Incident of the Removal of the National Flag Is A Shameful Behavior That Has Disgraced The Country"

The pro-independence "Liberty Times" [circulation: 800,000](06/16) editorialized:

". As a matter of fact, one cannot view the incident [where] the Hsiuping Institute removed the national flag and the portrait of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, founder of the Republic of China, as a single case. It, however, reflects a fact that a minority of the Taiwan people has a confused and a vacillating attitude regarding a Taiwan-centered identity, and lacks a concrete national identity. Consequently, Taiwan has lost its position, and lowered its status even before Taiwan would benefit from cross-Strait exchanges. During the recent fishery disputes between Taiwan and Japan, some politicians, disregarding Taiwan's difficult situation in the international community, criticized the government's negligence in protecting Taiwan fishermen, and advocated that Taiwan fishermen should hang the PRC's national flag on their boats [in order to get China's protection]. The fact also showed the abnormal attitude [of some Taiwan people] that tries to depreciate the status of their country [i.e. Taiwan], and to view China as the mother country. Hence, the Hsiuping incident is just the tip of an iceberg, which distinctively indicates that Taiwan is facing a serious crisis of national identity. ."

PAAL